



ANNUAL
REPORT
1956

*of the Special Services
After-Care Sub-Committee*

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE
SUB-COMMITTEE
1956**

E. L. RUSSELL, *Chief Education Officer*

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE, 1956

MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL SERVICES AFTER-CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| COUNCILLOR MRS. F. M. SMALLWOOD (<i>Chairman</i>). | MR. S. S. ALDERSON. |
| COUNCILLOR H. BENTLEY (<i>Member of Education Committee</i>). | MISS F. A. BARLOW. |
| COUNCILLOR MRS. H. L. RADFORD, (<i>Member of Education Committee and Health (Meric' Health Sub Committee)</i>). | MR. B. C. BUCKLEY |
| MISS J. DAVID (<i>Member of Education Committee</i>). | MISS D. M. EDWARDS. |
| MRS. P. H. JONES (<i>Member of Education Committee</i>). | MR. G. W. EVANS. |
| | MR. G. H. MEEK. |
| | MISS D. E. NEWMAN. |
| | MISS B. M. SMITH. |
| | MR. A. E. TANSLEY, B.Sc., M.Ed. |
| | MISS G. L. VAUGHAN. |

AFTER-CARE STAFF

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| <i>After-Care Officer</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MRS. J. M. FULFORD, B.A. |
| <i>After-Care Visitors</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MRS. H. K. FINCH. MISS S. D. BIBBY, M.A. MRS. K. WILLIAMS. MISS L. SMITH Miss J. GOODWIN, B.Com. |

OCCUPATION CENTRES

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| <i>Supervisor, Erdington</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MISS W. M. LÜCK. |
| „ <i>Glebe Farm</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MISS M. L. BEINDER. |
| „ <i>Kingstanding</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MISS O. M. WOOLLEY. |
| „ <i>St. Oswald's</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MISS E. LAMB. |
| „ <i>St. Paul's</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MRS. F. E. HOWELL. |
| „ <i>Weoley Castle</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MRS. M. HILL. |
| „ <i>Wretham Road</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MRS. E. A. COOKSEY. |

INDUSTRIAL CENTRES

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------|
| <i>Supervisor, Burlington Hall</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MR. R. C. SLACK. |
| | <i>(Bell Barn from Dec., 1956)</i> | | | |
| „ <i>Moseley Road</i> | ..... | ..... | ..... | MR. J. E. LAMB. |

CENTRE FOR SENIOR GIRLS

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| <i>Supervisor, Ellis Street</i> | | | | MRS. M. B. BUSBY. |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|

Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee

ANNUAL REPORT

1956

INTRODUCTION

The Special Services After-Care Sub-Committee of the City Education Committee have pleasure in presenting their fifty-sixth Annual Report.

The Sub-Committee are responsible for helping three main groups of children and young people. There are, first, those who as children are found incapable of receiving education at school. Many of them are provided with training in the Authority's Occupation Centres and Industrial Centres. A much smaller number are given a little training in their own homes. In all cases their families are given advice on the problems which must arise as these children grow up. Secondly, there are the young people who, on leaving school, have been placed under statutory supervision. They, and their families, are offered advice which may help them to adjust themselves to living and, in most cases, to earning, in the community. These two groups are the statutory responsibility of the Public Health Committee of the Corporation and the After-Care Sub-Committee act as their agent. Thirdly, on a quite voluntary basis, advice and help are offered, in their first few years after leaving school, to boys and girls who have attended the Authority's Special Schools for educationally subnormal children but have not been placed under statutory supervision on leaving school.

GENERAL

The Sub-Committee's work in 1956 was affected by two difficulties beyond their control.

In the first place, in a period of financial stringency there was no expansion in the provision of occupation and industrial centres or in their staff. However, by the end of the year plans were well advanced for the provision of an additional centre and additional staff and so for a reduction in waiting lists and in the number of those who at present attend part-time.

Secondly, the general trade recession began to affect Birmingham early in the year and in succeeding months it became increasingly difficult to find work for subnormal young people. In some cases boys in employment, and particularly those who had drifted from job to job, found

themselves discharged when reductions had to be made. Of the persons shown in Table III as gainfully employed some were not in continuous employment throughout the year. However, even when this factor is taken into account, the employment figures for persons in the Sub-Committee's care remained at a high level.

The less favourable employment situation brought with it a heavy additional load for the Sub-Committee's staff, both in trying to find jobs and in giving advice to those without work.

VISITING

New cases during 1956 numbered 260. The total number under supervision during the year was 3,503. The year's visiting list is analysed in Table I.

It will be appreciated that a considerable number of those shown as "At home, not gainfully employed" were usefully engaged in household duties; 257 are housewives accepting the main responsibility for the running of their households.

Table II gives an analysis of 370 persons removed from the visiting list during 1956. Supplementary Tables II A, II B, and II C give details of three groups: those discharged as not in need of further supervision (251), those who died (16) and those who were admitted to mental deficiency hospitals (68) during the year.

In visiting those who have lately left school, it is the aim of the After-Care Staff to give to Special School leavers support and counsel to bridge the gap between the comparative security and stability of life in school and the new and sometimes bewildering life in the community. Every effort is made to create a friendly relationship with these boys and girls during early visits so that they will have confidence to approach the Visitor and ask for advice if they need it. It is equally important for the Visitor to establish a similar relationship with the child's parents. It must be recognised that among such parents there are some who resent the attentions of the After-Care staff, as they resented their child's placing in a Special School. Patience and perseverance on the part of the After-Care Visitor frequently overcomes this initial hostility. Although such cases are by no means numerous the cost in time and trouble for the After-Care Staff may be high but it has been observed that it is just these families which most regularly seek advice in the ensuing years.

EMPLOYMENT

Of all the cases under supervision, the percentages gainfully employed were: 63.2 per cent. of all boys and men and 42.4 per cent. of all girls and women. The figures for 1955 were both slightly lower—59.8 per cent. and 39.9 per cent. respectively.

Table III shows their employment. As compared with previous reports this table has been reduced and simplified. In addition, the least skilled factory workers are shown broadly as "Porters, labourers and odd jobs". Some jobs—work in kennels, collecting for the R.S.P.C.A. and work in the jewellery trade, for example—are difficult of classification and are designated "Miscellaneous". It has been

found less easy than in previous years to find work for boys and girls from the Senior Occupation Centres but in a few instances it was possible; two examples may be given:

“A” a boy now sixteen was excluded from school at the age of twelve and attended an Occupation Centre and later, for a few months, an Industrial Centre. Early in 1956 he was found work with a manufacturer of chemists’ sundries; he is now working on a small gauging machine and is doing well;

“B” a girl now nineteen was excluded from school at the age of 14 and attended the Senior Girls’ Centre. Several attempts were made to find work for her and an After-Care Visitor accompanied her to a number of interviews. Eventually she was placed with a confectionery manufacturer and she is still there.

TRAINING FOR THOSE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL

Some 387 children and young people attended the Authority’s seven Junior Occupation Centres, two Industrial Centres for Older Boys and the Senior Centre for Older Girls.

During 1956 there was no change in the premises for Junior Occupation Centres. The Senior Boys’ Centre at Burlington Hall was moved, in December, 1956, to what was previously the Bristol Street Special School; it is now known as the Bell Barn Centre. It is hoped that in the fairly near future more suitably sited premises will be found for this Centre on the north side of the City. Some of the Centres, especially on the south side of the City, have still considerable waiting lists but it is hoped that this pressure will be relieved when a new Centre—for which plans have been prepared for submission to the Ministry of Health—is opened in the Fox Hollies area.

Premises in which occupation centres are conducted were built for other purposes; in some cases they are still used in the evening or at week-ends for these purposes; since they are rented major structural changes cannot be made. At some centres this has limited the grouping of children for treatment. Nevertheless as much variety in methods of training and as much activity has been provided as circumstances have allowed. Music, singing and dancing have continued to play an important part, especially in the Junior Centres, and carefully graded handwork has been used to develop manual skills. Some speech training has been given at all Centres and it is hoped that this side of the work will develop. In the two Industrial Centres for Senior Boys and young men more concentrated activity is possible and more time has been given to wood-work, basketry, boot-mending and rug-making than in the younger groups. Towards the end of the year a new scheme was started under which a number of young men attended for gardening instruction on some mornings each week. In both Senior Boys’ Centres good time was given to Physical Education and Games. At the Senior Girls’ Centre the emphasis, as in the past, has been on training in simple domestic work with plain sewing and garment making rather than elaborate handwork. Music was not neglected and some of the girls were taught to sing with very creditable results. The first concern of the staff at this Centre—

as indeed at the Senior Boys' Centre—is to inculcate normal ways of behaviour so that these young people may fit more readily into the lives of their families and of the community.

The Occupation Centres held Open Days to which parents and other interested people were invited and the children had the usual Christmas Parties and summer outings to the country and to the seaside. A week's holiday at Windmill House, Weatheroak, was enjoyed again this year by four parties of twenty-five children and senior boys. The Sub-Committee wish once more to thank the Occupation Centre staffs who took charge for giving up their leisure to accompany the children.

A total of forty-seven children and young people who were either unsuitable, owing to some physical handicap, for Occupation Centre training or were awaiting vacancies were given an hour's training at home each week by the staff of three peripatetic Assistant Supervisors.

Some of the Centres were visited during the year by Inspectors of the Board of Control (Ministry of Health).

CONCLUSION

The year 1956 saw no major development in the work of the After-Care Sub-Committee but the service was maintained and some progress was made. It is hoped that in 1957 a start will be made on the Committee's plans for the future.

The Sub-Committee would wish once again to thank, on behalf of the After-Care Staff and Supervisors, the many friends in the City who make the work easier. Colleagues in other departments of the Corporation have been most helpful to the After-Care staff and gifts of money, clothes and equipment have been received from the National Association for Mentally Handicapped Children, from the W.V.S. and from anonymous persons.

TABLE I.
SUMMARY OF CASES ON VISITING LIST DURING 1956

TABLE II
SUMMARY OF CASES REMOVED FROM VISITING LIST IN 1956

| A. | | B. | | C. | | D. | | E. | | F. | | G. | | H. | | I. | | J. | | K. | | TOTALS | | | |
|---|----|------------------------------------|----|----------------|----|--|----|--------------------------------------|----|---|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------|----|-------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|---|----|--------|----|----|----|
| M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| | | At home and not gainfully employed | | In H.M. Forces | | In Homes, Hospitals, etc., during 1956 | | Prison, Borstal and Approved Schools | | Admitted to Mental Deficiency Hospitals | | Further Contact Impossible | | Presented to Case Committee | | Reported Deceased | | Referred to other Authorities | | Discharged under Education (Misc. Prov) Act, 1948 | | | | | |
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| A—Cases reported during 1956 for: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (1) Vol. Supervision | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (2) Stat. Supervision | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| B—Cases reported prior to 1956 for: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (1) Vol. Supervision | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (2) Stat. Supervision | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| C—Excluded from school during 1956 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| D—Excluded from school prior to 1956 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS, 1956 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS, 1955 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

TABLE II A

CASES DISCHARGED IN 1956 AS NOT NEEDING FURTHER SUPERVISION.

| Age | Stat. Cases M. | Cases F. | Vol. Cases M. | Cases F. | Excluded Cases M. | Cases F. | Total |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| 21 years or less | 8 | 6 | 18 | 19 | — | — | 51 |
| 22—26 years | 21 | 19 | 42 | 23 | — | — | 105 |
| 27—35 years | 30 | 21 | 18 | 4 | 1 | — | 74 |
| Over 35 years | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | — | — | 21 |
| TOTAL | 65 | 52 | 83 | 50 | 1 | — | 251 |

Out of 261 cases presented to the Committee—discharge was deferred for:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2 Statutory | Male Cases |
| 1 Excluded | Male Case |
| 3 Statutory | Female Cases |
| 1 Voluntary | Male Case |
| 2 Voluntary | Female Cases |

In addition one Female was transferred from Statutory to Voluntary Supervision.

TABLE II B
DECEASED IN 1956.

| Age Groups | Statutory M. | Statutory F. | Voluntary M. | Voluntary F. | Excluded M. | Excluded F. |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Under 16 years | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 17—21 years | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| 22—30 years | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 30—50 years | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Over 50 years | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| TOTAL | 7 | — | — | 2 | 2 | 5 |

- 1 died from cerebral haemorrhage
- 1 died from intestinal haemorrhage
- 1 died from hypostatic pneumonia
- 2 died from pneumonia
- 1 died from pneumonia and severe epilepsy
- 1 died from tuberculosis
- 1 died from diabetes
- 2 died from accidents (one at work and one road accident)
- 1 died from heart condition
- 5 died from general mental and physical deterioration (3 in Mental Hospitals)

TABLE IIc

CASES ADMITTED TO MENTAL DEFICIENCY HOSPITALS IN 1956.

There were 68 admissions for long-term care. They were admitted for the following reasons:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Beyond control of parents | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 |
| Physical unfitness of mother | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9 |
| Desertion of mother | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 |
| Attempted suicide of mother | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Death of parents | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8 |
| Criminal | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| For training and care | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| For social ineptitude | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| For care and protection | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| Following deterioration of condition | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| TOTAL | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 68 |

TABLE III

TYPE OF WORK FOLLOWED BY THOSE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED

| Type of Work | Under Voluntary Supervision after leaving school | | Under Statutory Supervision after leaving school | | Excluded from school and under Statutory Supervision | | Total | |
|---|---|-----|---|-----|---|----|-------|-----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Assembly and Packing | 12 | 36 | 16 | 42 | 3 | 10 | 31 | 88 |
| Bakeries, Breweries, Food Manufacture | 13 | 29 | 33 | 33 | 10 | 10 | 56 | 72 |
| Boot Repairing | 22 | 1 | 15 | — | — | — | 37 | 1 |
| Building and Decorating | 68 | — | 107 | — | 12 | — | 187 | — |
| Cinema & Entertainments | 3 | 3 | 14 | 6 | — | — | 17 | 9 |
| Clerical Work | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 3 | 9 |
| Delivery and Sales | 46 | 7 | 69 | 5 | 12 | 1 | 127 | 13 |
| Factory Work | 174 | 93 | 257 | 150 | 52 | 25 | 483 | 268 |
| Farming and Gardening | 3 | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | 6 | — |
| Hotel, Cafe and Canteen Work | 2 | 8 | 4 | 21 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 39 |
| Domestic Work, Sewing | — | 22 | 6 | 23 | — | 9 | 6 | 54 |
| Public Services—Gas, Electricity, Transport, etc. | 26 | 1 | 59 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 102 | 6 |
| Laundry | — | 7 | — | 7 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 18 |
| Outwork, Rework | 3 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 3 | — | 13 | 4 |
| Warehouse | 16 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 10 |
| Woodwork | 17 | — | 10 | — | 9 | — | 36 | — |
| Window Cleaning | 5 | — | 5 | — | — | — | 10 | — |
| Porters, Labourers and Odd Jobs | 30 | 1 | 66 | 6 | 26 | 3 | 122 | 10 |
| Hairdressing | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Miscellaneous | 34 | 13 | 37 | 18 | 6 | — | 77 | 31 |
| TOTALS | 476 | 236 | 718 | 322 | 158 | 74 | 1352 | 632 |

